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Affiliated Brookhaven Civic Organizations

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American Physical Society
Reinhart Schuhmann

Brookhaven Coalition of Chambers of Commerce
Ron Trotta

Brookhaven Retired Employee Association
Eena-Mae Franz

Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Adrienne Esposito

Colonial Woods/Whispering Pines

Coram Civic Association
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East Yaphank Civic Association
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Foundation for Economic Education
Bruce Martin

Friends of Brookhaven
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Huntington Breast Cancer Coalition
Mary Joan Shea

Individuals
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Lake Panamoka Civic Association
Richard Staddon

Long Island Pine Barrens Society
Richard Amper

Long Island Progressive Coalition
David Sprintzen

Longwood Central School District
Tracy Adams

Mastic Park Civic Association
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Middle Island Civic Association
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Photon Sciences User Committee
Jean Jordan-Sweet

Ridge Civic Association
Wesley Chattaway

Suffolk County Legislator
Al Krupski

Teachers Federal Credit Union
Christine Stafford

Town of Brookhaven Senior Citizens Office
James Heil

Town of Riverhead
Isidore Doroski

Wading River Civic Association
Terri Kneitel

Community Advisory Council to Brookhaven National Laboratory Bldg. 400C, P.O. Box 5000, Upton, New York 11973

November 8, 2018

Doon Gibbs, Laboratory Director
Brookhaven National Laboratory
P.O. Box 5000
Upton, NY 11973-5000

Dear Director Gibbs,

The BNL Community Advisory Council (CAC) was gratified to learn that Brookhaven National Laboratory is working aggressively to test for PFAS in groundwater. As you are aware, Long Island is designated as a "sole source aquifer" by the USEPA, which necessitates that protection of our groundwater be given the highest priority. PFAS contamination is an emerging issue across our nation. However, Long Island's aquifer system is particularly vulnerable due to the persistent nature of these chemicals in soil and groundwater.

The historic photos provided at the October 11, 2018 CAC meeting illustrate the past abundant use of this chemical at the Former Firehouse Area, the area east of Building 902 and several other locations. Your report identifies 8 known locations of PFAS release within BNL boundaries. This new information has necessitated additional groundwater sampling.

We appreciate that the proposed sampling for PFAS throughout BNL property is comprehensive. However, the CAC is concerned about members of the public utilizing private wells that live south of the Laboratory and may be adversely impacted by PFAS contamination. **We are writing to urge you to include the additional 97 identified properties south of BNL that may have private wells in your testing plan.**

The New York State Drinking Water Council held a meeting on October 17, 2018 and PFAS contamination was extensively discussed. This Council will be establishing a drinking water standard for five (5) of the PFAS chemicals including PFOA and PFOS by the end of the year. The Council has been collaborating with 5 other states in the northeast to compare data and health-based analysis in determining a protective drinking water standard. Based upon the discussion at this meeting, it is reasonable to expect New York will be establishing a standard much lower than the 70 ppt guidance standard provided by the EPA. It was revealed that due to the serious health impacts associated with drinking PFAS chemicals that New Jersey will be announcing a standard of 14 ppt, which will be the lowest drinking water standard to date, in the nation.

Over the last two decades BNL has worked diligently to characterize and remediate several plumes and contaminated sites throughout BNL property. It has been a successful and monumental effort. The members of the CAC are hopeful that the practice of prioritizing public health, environmental and groundwater protection will continue and that BNL will test all private wells contained in the 97 additional properties offsite that maybe impacted by PFAS contamination.

We look forward to your response.

The Brookhaven National Laboratory Community Advisory Council

Cc: US Senator Charles Schumer
US Congressman Lee Zeldin
NYS Senator Ken LaValle
Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone
Suffolk County Health Commissioner Dr. James Tomarken